(SITRA) and Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) have been restructured into a new self-employment programme namely the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for the rural poor, launched w.e.f. 1.4.99. The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty line by providing them income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and the Government subsidy. It has been envisaged, subject to availability of funds, to cover 30% of the rural poor during next five years from the day of launching of the programme.

The SGSY has been conceived as a holistic Programme of self-employment covering all aspects of self-employment *viz.* organisation of the rural poor in to Self Help Groups and their capacity building, training, selection of key activities, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure build up and technology and marketing support. The SGSY particularly focuses on the disadvantaged sections of the rural poor and safeguards have been provided by way of reserving 50% benefits for SCs/STs, 40% for women and 3% for persons with disability.

Consumption of contaminated water by rural people of Karnataka

1170. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 35 per cent of the rural people in the country are drinking poor quality water contaminated chemically and biologically, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in many Districts of Karnataka the rural people are drinking poor quality water which is leading to diseases; and

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has sought financial assistance from the Central Government, if so, the details thereof and the amount released for the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) As per information received from the States and UTs, as on 1-4-1999, it is estimated that there are 2,17,211 habitations in the country affected

with various quality problems in drinking water. The details are given in the Annexure.

(b) It has been reported in the said Annexure that 2856 habitations in various districts of Karnataka are affected with quality problems in water. A fresh survey in two stages is going on. However, no cases of diseases due to poor quality drinking water has been reported.

(c) Rural drinking water is a State subject. State Governments take up schemes/projects for providing drinking water in rural areas from their own resources. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments and provides financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)—Rural Drinking Water (RDW). under ARWSP, upto 20% of the allotted funds can be utilised to tackle water quality problem which *inter-alia* includes providing safe drinking water free from fluoride contamination. The allocation and release of funds under ARWSP and PMGY—(RDW) to the Government of Karnataka during the years 2000-2001 and 2001 and 2002 are as under:—

	RWSP and DDP (Rs. in lakhs)	PMGY-Rural Drinking Water (Rs. in lakhs)
Allocation		
2000-2001	10859.00	1127.00
2001-2002	13547.74	1127.00
Release		
2000-2001	8419.62	1127.00
2001-2002	6773.87	563.50

The Government of Karnataka *vide* their letter dated 24-11-2001, which was received in the Ministry on 26-11-2001, has requested the Government of India for sanction of additional funds for implementation of Sub-Mission Projects in the State. Powers to approve and implement Sub-Mission Projects have been delegated to

the State Governments and up to 20% of the ARWSP funds can be utilised for Sub-Mission Projects by the States concerned. Therefore, the Government of India does not provide additional or separate funds to the States for Sub-Mission Projects.

Penalising States for not holding Panchayat and Zilla Parishad Elections

1171. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have recently penalised some States for not holding the elections to Panchayats and Zilla Parishads by not releasing grants to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government can penalise the people of a particular State which could not complete the election process due to judicial intervention; and

(d) the fallout if the Government of India withholds funds meant for welfare of the poor for one reason or the other?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (d) According to 73rd Amendment of the Constitution, the State Governments are required to hold elections of Panchayati Raj Institutions at regular interval and empower such institutions adequately. Though 80% of funds allocated under Employment Assurance Scheme are released as per normal procedure, 20% of funds are released as an incentive only if the State has put in place elected and empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions. Funds earmarked as incentives were released to all the States during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. The conduct of election and empowerment of PRIs has not been completed in some States. For the current year, these States have been advised to take appropriate steps to empower the PRIs so that funds could be released.